

28th March 2022



Official Information Act Request for – Cancer Procedures ADHB Domiciled Patients

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 2nd March 2022 by way of partial transfer from Auckland District Health Board, you requested the following information:

1. Could I have a breakdown by year of the number of cancer treatments and surgeries undertaken in the Auckland region from 2015 to 2021?
2. Could this list also be broken down by the type of cancer being treated?
3. And finally could I have a list of the ages of people receiving cancer treatment in the Auckland district from 2015 to 2021?

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

1. Could I have a breakdown by year of the number of cancer treatments and surgeries undertaken in the Auckland region from 2015 to 2021?

The below information relates to patients hospitalised at CM Health with a primary diagnosis of Cancer who are domiciled under Auckland District Health Board.

Inpatient Discharge Year	Auckland Domiciled Patients
2015	111
2016	121
2017	125
2018	124
2019	52

2020	51
2021	48
Grand Total	632

NB:

- We have not included any surgeries that were cancelled or abandoned. One hospitalisation might have more than one surgery (e.g primary procedure is more than one)
- From 2019 there was a coding change practice where some procedures were no longer classified as inpatient procedures.

2. Could this list also be broken down by the type of cancer being treated?

CM Health does not centrally hold this information and to obtain information on the type of cancer being treated per patient, individual patient files would need to be reviewed.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to decline this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 due to substantial collation and research.

We can however provide you with the service each patient from question one was under, this information includes both procedures completed at Middlemore Hospital and Manukau Surgery Centre.

Theatre Visit Service	Auckland Domiciled Patients
Anaesthesiology	5
Burns	9
Gastroenterology	1
General Surgery	92
Gynaecology	17
Hand Service	2
Maxillo-Facial Surgery	5
O.R.L.	11
Ophthalmology	1
Orthopaedic Surgery	20
Plastic Surgery	456
Respiratory Medicine	2
Urology	11
Total	632

3. And finally could I have a list of the ages of people receiving cancer treatment in the Auckland district from 2015 to 2021?

Please refer to the table below. Please note, this is for ADHB domiciled patients receiving treatment at CMDHB.

Auckland Domiciled Patient Ages receiving treatment at CMDHB									
Year	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85-90+	Total
2015		5	6	18	19	26	22	15	111
2016	1	4	7	15	21	19	25	29	121
2017		3	5	18	13	23	36	27	125
2018	1	5	6	21	22	24	17	28	124
2019	1	1	2	9	14	7	7	11	52
2020		2	2	9	8	10	14	6	51
2021			2	11	10	8	9	8	48
Total	3	20	30	110	107	117	130	124	632

I trust this information answers your request. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Watson
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health